

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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CHENEY INTRODUCES BILL THAT REGULATES PET STORES

INDIANAPOLIS -- State Rep. Duane Cheney (D-Portage) has introduced legislation that requires licensing for pet store operators and establishes guidelines for the treatment and care of animals owned by pet shops.

House Bill 1084 requires that a pet store operator must provide for adequate nutrition, humane treatment, and veterinary care for animals that are to be released for sale, trade or adoption.

Not only would the new guidelines ensure the proper treatment for animals, but they would also ensure that the pet store operator would maintain a sanitary environment and would work to prevent disease in animals. Lack of regulatory guidelines for maintaining a clean pet store environment can lead to outbreaks of rashes and diseases such as ringworm, hookworm, toxoplasmosis, etc.

"By creating more stringent guidelines for the operation of pet stores, we are working to prevent outbreaks of disease that can come as a result of a lack of appropriate regulation," said Cheney.

The bill also states that these guidelines apply only to pet stores and do not cover livestock dealers. This addresses a concern that constituents, particularly those working in agriculture, have brought up in the past.

"People should not just extend their compassion and concern to other people, but to all living beings," said Cheney. "Nothing is worse than seeing a beloved family pet suffer from a disease that could have been prevented if the pet shop where it was purchased from had maintained a clean, disease-free environment."

House Bill 1084 has been referred to the Committee on Public Health.